



Appl. No. 10/644,661

Amdt. dated February 27, 2006

Reply to Office Action of December 21, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) A method for cooling a trunnion ring, the trunnion ring supporting a vessel in a metallurgical converter and having a surface adjacent the vessel and being in a spaced relationship from the vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling one or more cooling panels to cover at least a portion of the surface of the trunnion ring adjacent the vessel;

supplying a coolant at an inlet for at least one of said cooling panels;

circulating said coolant in said cooling panel and said coolant serving to cool the trunnion ring by absorbing heat radiated from said vessel.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said step of coupling said one or more cooling panels comprises affixing a bracket to each of said cooling panels and connecting said respective bracket to said trunnion ring, and said bracket permitting removal of said cooling panel for repair or replacement.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said step of supplying a coolant comprises connecting a coolant supply tank and pump to the inlet of said cooling panel and to an outlet on said cooling panel.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein for said step of circulating said coolant, said cooling panel includes a plurality of conduits and said coolant is circulated through said plurality of conduits.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further including the step of interconnecting at least two of said cooling panels, wherein each of said cooling panels include an outlet, and said step of interconnecting comprises coupling the outlet of one of said cooling panels to the inlet of another one of said cooling panels.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of coupling said one or more cooling panels comprises detachably coupling said cooling panels to said trunnion ring, so that any one of said cooling panels is removable for replacement.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of coupling said one or more cooling panels comprises said cooling panel having a bracket and connecting said bracket to said trunnion ring, and said bracket being detachable for removing said cooling panel for repair.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said step of supplying a coolant comprises providing a coolant supply tank and pump having an output and an input, and coupling said coolant supply output to the inlet of a first one of said cooling panels, and coupling said coolant supply input to the outlet of another of said cooling panels.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein for said step of circulating said coolant comprises said cooling panel having a network of conduits and said coolant being circulated by said coolant pump through said network of conduits.